

# Kansas State Collegian

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Friday, September 10, 2010

Vol. 116 | No. 14

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Check the parade route on Page 3 to see if the band will be marching outside your house.

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06 **Caught the travel bug?**  
Find out how to plan a cheap vacation on the fly. See today's Edge page for hints.

## RCPD, fraternities hold open discussion

**Police explain why some parties get busted and some do not**

Pauline Kennedy  
campus editor

Presidents from fraternities across campus as well as several officers from the Riley County Police department gathered in the Flint Hills Room in the K-State Student Union yesterday to discuss tensions surrounding parties and underage drinking.

The Intrafraternity Council meeting was set up to open the lines of communication between campus chapters and Manhattan law enforcement after several fraternity members felt they were being unfairly targeted for breaking up and handing out citations at house parties.

"Our officers are not targeting fraternities; you can look at our statistics, you can look at our numbers," Lt. Mark French said. "What we're combating are large parties with minors consuming alcohol."

French said nearly one-third of the minor-in-possession citations officers have issued since the start of the semester were given out at non-greek parties.

During the discussion, officers talked both about how they choose which parties to stop at and about how they can compromise with fraternity leaders.

"If it looks like a party is getting out of hand, if we get there and it is out of hand, it's too late to do anything regarding trying to work with people," said Brad Schoen, director of the RCPD. "We've just got to do something to try to get it under control."

The officers discussed with the fraternity presidents exactly what they are looking for when they are patrolling.

"Don't hang blankets inside windows of certain rooms inside your place and have everybody run to that room when the cops drive by," Schoen said. "We figure out pretty quickly why those are there."

That, along with making excessive noise, posting lookouts and having intoxicated people outside in the streets, is enough to make police officers aware of out-of-control parties.

"The key is staying off the radar screen," Schoen said.

During the meeting, they also discussed the importance of re-

See IFC, Page 7

## All-University Campaign kicks off with annual ice cream social

Jeff Pfannenstielf, associate director of annual giving at the KSU Foundation, scoops chocolate ice cream into a cup held by Kimberly Bacus, annual campaign coordinator for the Foundation. Pfannenstielf said it was the coldest ice cream he had ever scooped.

**Crowds enjoy more than 50 gallons of ice cream**

Katie Reilley  
junior staff writer

Despite Thursday's rainy weather and a last-minute location change, the All-University Campaign Kickoff Ice Cream Social surged on and served over 50 gallons of Call Hall ice cream to students, faculty and supporters.

The annual ice cream social, which traditionally occurs around the second week of Sep-



tember, was originally to be held at Bosco Plaza, but was moved to a back-up location in the Engineering Complex atrium due to the rain.

"It's been great being here in the Engineering Complex," said Jeff Pfannenstielf, associate director of annual giving and student programs at the KSU Foundation, who spent the afternoon scooping out ice cream.

Call Hall ice cream lovers agreed.

"We heard there was an ice cream social, so we decided to come out," said Morgan Peelen, junior in open option, who attended with two friends. "We love Call Hall."

## New women's fraternity chapter to begin on campus

**Zeta Tau Alpha promotes awareness, starts recruitment next week**

Tim Schrag  
senior staff writer

The enormous 10 pink ribbons spread across campus Thursday were not only there to promote breast cancer awareness; they also signify that Zeta Tau Alpha has arrived on campus.

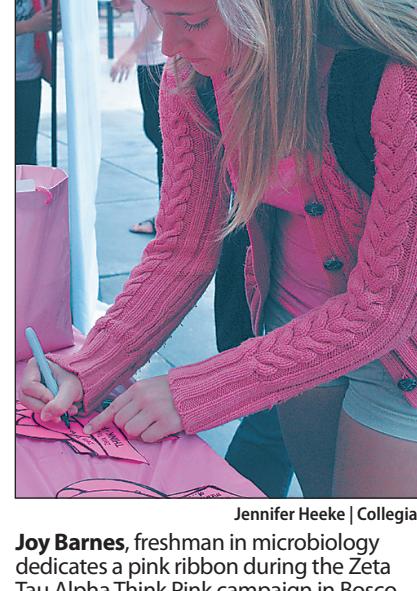
Consultants from the Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity for women's national organization handed out more than 700 pink ribbons, candy and cookies in support of breast cancer awareness in Bosco Student Plaza. The group, with the help of Willie the Wildcat, also had people fill out paper ribbons with names of loved ones who had or have breast cancer.

Sharon Binford, traveling leadership consultant for Zeta Tau Alpha, said the group was celebrating "Think Pink, Think Zeta" week as a way to introduce the sorority's philanthropy to campus.

"We just want to spread awareness about breast cancer in any way we can," Binford said. "Early detection is the best protection."

Binford said the group has been on campus for the last two weeks to promote K-State's newest sorority on campus.

"So the past couple of weeks,



Jennifer Heeke | Collegian

**Joy Barnes**, freshman in microbiology dedicates a pink ribbon during the Zeta Tau Alpha Think Pink campaign in Bosco Plaza on Thursday afternoon.

we've been doing some PR about our organization and this week was about our philanthropy," said Kat Lopez, national consultant for Zeta Tau Alpha.

"We wanted to bring that to K-State a little bit."

Lopez said she cannot count the number of people she and the other consultants have talked to about their organization.

### UPCOMING ZETA EVENTS:

**Infoviews** (in Union 212-213)

- Sept. 12 - Between 1 and 8 p.m.

- Sept. 13 and 14 - Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Experience ZTA Open House**

- Sept. 13 - 7 p.m. Union Grand Ballroom

**Think Pink, Think Zeta!**

- Sept. 14 - 7 p.m. Union Grand Ballroom

"We've been talking to everybody, kind of: girls, guys, staff members, workers in the Union, just kind of everybody we could talk to."

Binford and Lopez said next week will mark the formal recruitment process, culminating

**See PINK, Page 7**





**STREET TALK**

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?



"I would go to Rome."

**Brandon Blount**  
SENIOR, ATHLETIC TRAINING



"I would go to Barcelona, Spain, to experience the culture."

**Karmen Harris**  
JUNIOR, INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING



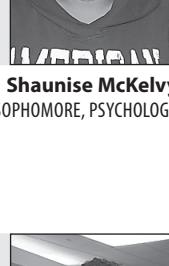
"Japan, because I think the Japanese are really interesting people, and the culture's really different."

**Aaron Gatz**  
SENIOR, MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS



"I would go to Brazil, because I love the culture and there's a type of dance I'd really like to pick up."

**Tyrone Williams**  
JUNIOR, DANCE, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, SOCIAL ECONOMY



"I would go to Paris, because it's the fashion capitol of the world, and I'm super obsessed with fashion."

**Shaunise McKelvy**  
SOPHOMORE, PSYCHOLOGY



"Japan, because I was there when I was younger and I can't remember it very well."

**Devin Brown**  
JUNIOR, ARCHITECTURE



"Italy, because of the great food and the fine women."

**Jake Unruh**  
FRESHMAN, ENGINEERING



"Australia, because it's a different culture, but it's similar so it wouldn't be too hard to adjust."

**Val Rock**  
SOPHOMORE, JOURNALISM AND ADVERTISING

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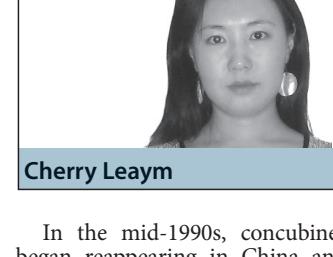
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# BLAME GAME

## China misses the point in hatred of concubines



**Cherry Leaym**

In the mid-1990s, concubines began reappearing in China and have been growing more popular ever since. The concubine phenomenon is an extension of China's male chauvinism mentality in society. This mentality has resided in the minds of men and women for thousands of years and it never died, even after the foundation of communist China.

As harsh government laws against affairs outside legal marriage have lifted, and more and more people can afford luxury, concubines are making an inevitable comeback. While concubinage was equivalent to polygamy in the old feudal society, China's concubine phenomenon nowadays is a mixture of prostitution and polygamy at the same time.

When a married man pays a single girl to have an exclusive affair with him for a long period of time, the girl is called his concubine. She is given steady pay on top of other bonuses, sometimes a house, car or extra cash. There are even agents that connect married men with concubines.

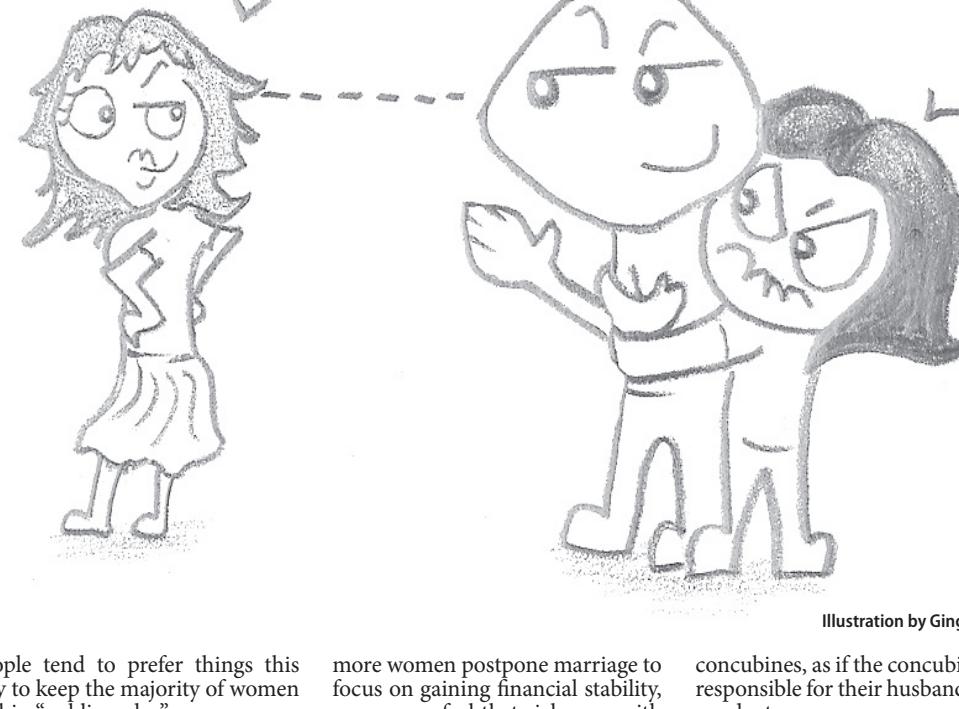
China's insufficient educational investment, industrial structure and gender discrimination in the workplace have played a role, too. It is almost impossible for a Chinese student to support him- or herself through college solely on grants and normal part-time jobs. Women have a harder time than men looking for employment after graduation. This situation drives some young girls to become concubines.

There is an old Chinese saying: "It is the poor that should be laughed at rather than the prostitutes." This proverb can be used to describe China's current society, but I think it is inaccurate. In my opinion, our culture despises both the poor and the prostitutes, but not the men who solicit prostitutes.

While people might despise and look down on prostitutes, they have a passionate hatred towards concubines. As observed from multiple major Internet forums, wherever concubines are mentioned, people aggressively wish misfortune upon them, applaud when misfortune strikes them and verbally attack people who show them sympathy.

Why are concubines than prostitutes, as if they are public enemies? I believe there are several reasons.

The Chinese society is used to seeing women who defy the "ethical code" lead miserable and doomed lives. The typical prostitute's life involves a degrading reputation, going to jail, being beaten up, STDs, poverty and, later, a lonely death.



People tend to prefer things this way to keep the majority of women within "public order."

While paid concubines break the public order as much as other prostitutes do, they do not necessarily suffer from any of the above. Instead, they are kept in houses or apartments by

more women postpone marriage to focus on gaining financial stability, many men feel that rich men with concubines take away dating and marriage opportunities. However, the leftovers of feudal hierarchy in

China's public mentality also make the common man feel underprivileged. So,

concubines, as if the concubines are responsible for their husbands' misconduct.

The public's hatred toward concubines has also permeated into court, affecting judicial fairness. According to a Chinese website, in 2007, a woman suspected her husband's female friend was his concubine and beat her up. Although no evidence proved the victim was a concubine, the court made the victim pay 30 percent of her own medical bill. The victim's appeal was rejected based on "practice of good public custom." A survey case showed that 29.17 percent of people believed the wife should be responsible for the medical bill.

There have also been cases where the man or his wife sued the concubine to get their money back after paying them. The court often supported the plaintiffs and ordered the concubines to return the money.

To me, this looks ridiculous. If paying a concubine is not considered soliciting prostitution, the concubine shouldn't be obligated to return money that is gifted to her. If it is, the money should be confiscated by the court and neither the man nor the concubine should have it. What does the court accomplish by granting the money back to the man? Rewarding his behavior with free sex?

There is no doubt that we should strive to eliminate prostitution — which is a woman-degrading profession — from our society. But concubine hatred is going to get us nowhere. It only makes us lose focus on the real root of the problem, and at the same time harms the fairness of both our law and our moral standards. The concubine phenomenon will only start fading when the whole society starts despising the men who buy concubines.

**Cherry Leaym is a 2008 alumna. Please send your comments to [opinion@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:opinion@spub.ksu.edu).**

## God: A Song of Opposites



What is God's identity?  
Are His eyes black, brown, green or blue?  
Is He Muslim, Christian, Hindu; a capitalist or a communist?  
Is He omnipresent, omniscient or just struggle to survive?

If He is Allah,  
Does He still supply 72 virgin to the jihadists?  
Does He still want blood of Christians, Jews and Hindus?  
Did He dance fanatically at the stoning of Soraya?  
Did He laugh at the death of thousands in 9/11?

If He is God,  
Does He still procreate His son in a virgin's womb?  
Does He still want His monolithic kingdom?  
Did He weep for those children abused in church?  
Did He take sides when Muslims were violated in Srebrenica?

If He is Bhagwan,  
Does He belong to the higher caste or lower caste?  
Does He still punish us with the cycle of reincarnations?  
Did He applaud when Babri Mosque was demolished?  
Did He care when missionaries were burnt?

If He is capitalist,  
Is His wealth swollen by the cry of destitute?  
If He is communist,  
He seems to love to control everything, even freedom.

If He is eternal, if He is the only One,  
Why is the eternal One limited to  
A three-dimensional song of opposites?

**Mausam Kalita is a Ph.D. graduate student in chemistry. Please send comments to [opinion@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:opinion@spub.ksu.edu).**



## Interviews awkward in locker room



Ashley Dunkak

I wrote about sports for four years in high school, and for my first year in college, which was last year. During all that time I had never been in the men's locker room. On Saturday, that changed.

My assignment was to get quotes from UCLA players. This wasn't the first time I had talked to visiting athletes, but usually their sports information director stops them before they get on the bus so reporters have a chance to interview them. UCLA, however, has an open locker room policy.

Let me begin by saying I don't understand why reporters — male or female — are ever allowed in locker rooms in the first place. It would seem to me that 1. No athlete wants people asking questions when he is trying to get dressed and 2. No one wants to question people who are still in the process of getting dressed.

Maybe it's just me, but a humid, loud place that calls for stepping strategically through masses of gym bags and sweaty shorts and towels, looking intently at the ceiling or the sticky floor to avoid seeing anything that wouldn't be allowed in a PG-13 movie, doesn't seem like an environment conducive to sound, meaningful reporting.

The UCLA players to whom I and the other reporters spoke answered all questions politely — one even broke into a grin and marveled about how great the atmosphere at K-State is — and did not seem particularly fazed by us being there. As for all the other players around, I don't know, because I paid attention only to the faces of those I was interviewing and nothing else. Any looks or remarks from the peanut gallery were lost on me.

As I said, the interviews themselves were fine. In general, though, I'm not a big fan of too many people in small areas. When the majority of the people are half-clothed, at best, it's plain ol' awkward.

Obviously I speak from a woman's perspective, but I can't believe it be comfortable for male reporters to go up and start questioning someone wearing only a towel or underwear either.

I wouldn't want a man interviewing me in a locker room, and I can see how men wouldn't want to be interviewed by a woman in a locker room. However, since women have sportswriting jobs too, that happens.

Equal opportunity is a blessing, but in these circumstances, it would be better for all parties if schools and teams allowed for interview sessions after everyone is clean and clothed. That way, athletes have their privacy, and reporters don't feel like jerks for invading that privacy.

That's the way K-State does it, and I have to say, I think that's the right way.

## Men's golf team to open season in Indiana

### Three of top four positions held by freshmen

Tyler Scott  
staff writer

On Saturday afternoon, the men's golf team will compete in its first tournament of the season, the Wolf Run Intercollegiate in Zionsville, Ind.

This year's team consists of only two seniors but has other players that have stepped up in the past. Jason Schulte, senior in business, said the team has a good amount of experience.

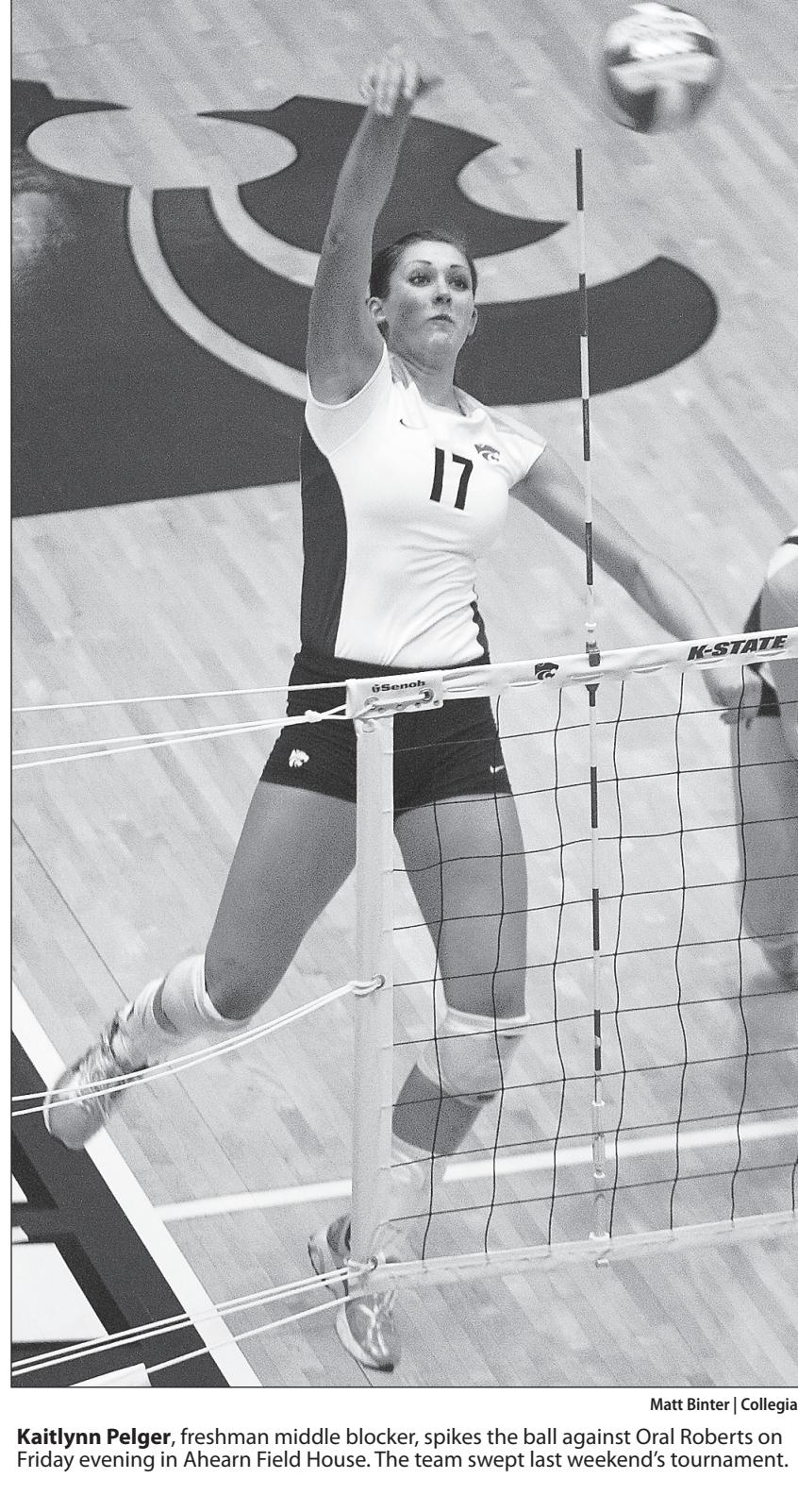
"We have four freshman on this team that are capable of showing some leadership," Schulte said. "It will really drive the team with knowing the course conditions and shooting the scores we all know we can."

Head coach Tim Norris said the leadership will have to come from the best players, no matter what class they are.

"The freshman have stepped up and played very well," he said. "Hopefully that will spur on the other guys a little bit to play better."

Adding to the fact the team is young, Norris said after the

## LUCKY NUMBERS



Kaitlynn Pelger, freshman middle blocker, spikes the ball against Oral Roberts on Friday evening in Ahearn Field House. The team swept last weekend's tournament.

Matt Binter | Collegian

## Volleyball looks to sweep third tourney

Sam Nearhood  
staff writer

Early Wednesday morning, the K-State volleyball team loaded onto the bus headed for Kansas City, the first leg of their journey to the Kentucky Invitational.

This weekend, K-State (4-3) will end non-conference play with another three-match tournament. Playing first Friday morning at 10 is No. 17 Florida State University (5-1). After a few hours of resting time, the team will take on Virginia Commonwealth University (1-6) at 4 p.m. On Saturday at 4 p.m., K-State will close the tournament against the No. 16 team, University of Kentucky (4-3).

K-State ended its own invitational last weekend with three straight sweeps, which head coach Suzie Fritz said was crucial to take before conference play.

"We're moving in the right direction, and we're gaining momentum," Fritz said. "I think having the success we did hopefully gives us a little bit of confidence going into what I believe will be a more difficult weekend than this past weekend."

For the first match, K-State has history on its side. In the previous two matches between teams, the Wildcats swept the Seminoles, first in 2003, then in 2005. K-State has never competed against Virginia Commonwealth before, but the Rams' record so far does not say much for the team's chances in the second match. The last match will be a chance for K-State to get revenge. Last season, Kentucky took down K-State in four games at the Varney's Invitational, showing themselves as possibly the strongest team in that tournament. This time, K-State is the visitor and has a new opportunity to prove who is the better team.

For the Seminole offense,

junior outside hitter Visnja Djurdjevic — one of eight international players on Florida State's roster — leads the books with 3.70 kills per game and six aces, both team highs. For the defense in the front row, however, Djurdjevic is not strong. That job is mostly accomplished by sophomore middle blocker Marija Milosavljevic, who, like Djurdjevic, is from Serbia and spent her freshman year at Tulane University. In the back row, senior libero Jenna Romanelli holds down the fort with 3.65 digs per game, nearing the mark for a top-10 Florida State record.

The Virginia Commonwealth Rams have had a challenging non-conference schedule this year, but their numbers are still going strong. Defensively, sophomore libero Mariso Low, still relatively new to her position, is recording a team-high 3.46 digs per game, putting her on par with the other teams. In the front row, middle blockers Courtney Hott and Kelsie Clegg have each garnered over 0.88 blocks per game, but the main attacking is handled by senior Mariel Frey — who can claim a home in both the middle blocker and outside hitter position — with 3.04 kills per game.

Kentucky has hit a sweet spot in its schedule recently, dropping four of the last five teams, including Ohio State. The blue-clad Wildcats will rely on a number of players to rack up the points, most notably redshirt freshman outside hitter Whitney Billings, who has already earned 3.11 kills per game. However, her .132 hitting percentage might give away more points than Kentucky would like. To back her up, another redshirt freshman, middle blocker Alexandra Morgan, will use her 1.24 blocks per game to stop the frontal assault across the

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 7

## Water skiing team optimistic despite lack of equipment

### Club plans to restore ramp after 10 years in storage

Danny Davis  
senior staff writer

At one time, K-State had some of the best waterskiers in the country. Now the water skiing team is making strides to rebuild the once great program.

The KSU Water Ski Team, a sport club, competes against other schools across the nation, as every club team does. They attend competitions in Iowa, Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

The K-State team has its own ramp, but it has been in storage for 10 years. This year, team members are putting it back together. It currently sits on the

side of the lake.

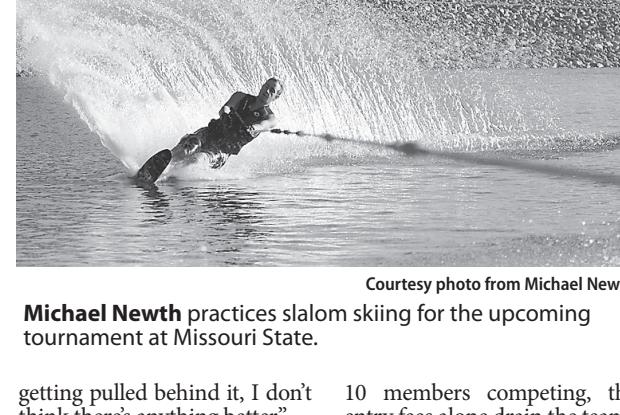
Without the ramp, the team does not have adequate practice facilities to prepare fully for tournaments. Compared to KU and other large universities, K-State's water skiing club lags behind. KU, for example, has a private lake for its water skiing team to practice on.

A lack of proper facilities makes it difficult to recruit high school and transfer students, said Michael Newth, team president.

"We can't offer what they want," he said. "We don't have the equipment or facilities."

Adequate facilities aside, the team has fun with the sport, Newth said. Members regularly hold cookouts at the lake.

"It's a phenomenal time," said Trevor Huppert, team member since last fall. "Spending the weekend out on a boat,



Courtesy photo from Michael Newth  
Michael Newth practices slalom skiing for the upcoming tournament at Missouri State.

getting pulled behind it, I don't think there's anything better."

Each competition they attend costs \$30 per skier. With

10 members competing, the entry fees alone drain the team's \$2,000 account it receives from Recreational Services. The re-

mainder of the money needed to operate is provided out of pocket by members and fund-raisers throughout the year.

They also look to community members to provide boats for them to practice with at Tuttle Lake.

When they practice, they work on three different areas of competition: slalom, trick skiing and ski jumping. In slalom, the skier rides across buoys using only one specialized ski. Trick skiing features a skier attempting to perform tricks in the water. And for jump skiing, the boat pulls the skier alongside a large wooden ramp, Newth said.

Jumping is often difficult for newcomers to the sport, he said. Remembering "knees, trees and freeze" helped him when

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### After a successful year, team to move to full varsity schedule

Marshall Frey  
staff writer

While the K-State equestrian team might not receive as much time in the spotlight as the football or basketball teams, it is just as competitive in its sport. In fact, the success of the K-State equestrian team might be one of the best-kept secrets on campus. Last season concluded with the Wildcats finishing second in the nation at the Varsity Equestrian Championships behind Texas A&M.

This season has brought changes for Wildcat riders, including a new home arena at TimberCreek Stables and a move to a full varsity schedule.

For some riders, the sport is passed down through the family ranks. A good number of riders have family members who also competed in the equestrian sport. This was the case for Tiana Shelton, junior in life sciences.

"My dad grew up with

horses and competed in high school rodeo," Shelton said. "When I was born, he got back into horses. Showing was something that caught my interest when I was younger, and it became my hobby."

For others, like sophomore Whitney Unkefer, earlier involvement came in the form of a 4-H club.

"When I was 8, my mom got me involved with the 4-H program," Unkefer said. "I really wanted to be involved with the horse aspects of 4-H. My director had a little pony that she let me show, and I began taking lessons. I haven't stopped since."

For other athletes, the sport provides an opportunity to display their passion. One of these is Rebecca Wallisch, junior in elementary education.

"My favorite part about riding for K-State is getting to do what I love every day, which is riding horses," she

said. "I have also been able to meet a lot of really cool people."

Equestrianism can be a whole new experience for athletes, one that requires some background information. There are two different divisions for riders to compete in: western and Hunter Seat.

On the western side, riders can compete in either the horsemanship

or reining events. Horsemanship is judged on the rider's ability to maintain the correct position while controlling the horse in a pre-determined pattern, which could consist of a variety of maneuvers. The reining event is similar, as riders again must perform a pre-designed pattern. However, the pattern is different in that riders are required to perform stops, spins and circles at various speeds.

For other athletes, the sport provides an opportunity to display their passion. One of these is Rebecca Wallisch, junior in elementary education.

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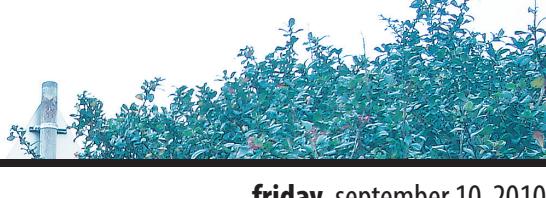
the Flat and Equitation over Fences. In the flat class, riders are judged on their ability to maintain the correct position on the horse while putting it through a pre-determined test in a dressage arena. The test could include a wide range of maneuvers, including a walk, canter and trot or directing the horse to stop, back up or change directions.

In the fence class, riders are scored on their ability to position the horse correctly on jumps while maintaining good riding posture. The fence class typically will consist of eight to 10 fences.

The overall team score is based on riders matching up head-to-head in their respective competitions. A win constitutes one point for the rider's team. The team with the highest overall score at the end of the competition wins.

K-State will begin its equestrian season on the road in two weeks, opening at Auburn University in Alabama. The first home event of the season is scheduled for Oct. 15, when the Wildcats take on Big 12 opponent Baylor at TimberCreek Stables.

The Hunter Seat division also has two events for riders to compete in, Equitation on



## Time away: life abroad in Spain with Amelia Hodges

**Elena Buckner**  
edge editor

*This interview is part of our weekly series on international life and travel, featuring K-State students who have experienced studying abroad, international students studying at K-State and students living and studying in their own countries worldwide.*

*Amelia Hodges, a senior in Spanish and electrical engineering, studied in Malaga, Spain, for the fall 2009 semester.*

**Q. What kind of accommodation did you have?**

**What did you do for food?**

I stayed with a host family. I had a roommate from Florida who was also in the [International Studies Abroad] program. The room was quite small; the two beds in between a nightstand filled the room nicely. We shared a chest of drawers, with a TV and DVD player on top of it. There was a table with one chair and two wardrobes. We could also walk out on the balcony. The bathroom was decent sized and we kept our toiletries there.

The kitchen was small, but was not a problem. We did not have to cook; the only time we spent in the kitchen was for breakfast. The two of us were up before our host parents. We'd have toast and a pastry for breakfast with a cup of tea and juice.

For lunch, we would have our three-course meal. Typically, the first was soup, sometimes salad. The second was the main course, which was similar to the variety we see in the U.S. Garbanzo bean soup, spaghetti and paella were our favorites.

French fries were also popular — homemade of course.

Dinner was similar to lunch but a little lighter. Pizza was common for dinner.

**Q. How did the class/instructor interaction compare to K-State? Did the cultural barrier make it hard to learn?**

Since I went to study Spanish and learn more about Spanish culture, I was not too surprised. I think my Spanish classes prepared me for spending a semester, or even longer, in Spain. The interaction in the classroom was similar to what I've experienced in Spanish classes here at K-State. They were small and personal classes. You could discuss things that were going on in the world or in the classroom.

Jokes were common; it was a fun environment.

**Q. What did you do on weekends?**

Most of my weekends were spent traveling. ISA had excursions every other weekend, or so it seemed. Most other weekends I'd travel with friends. Places I visited include Madrid, Toledo, Sevilla, Granada, Cordoba, Ronda, Neja, Marbella (all in Spain); Morocco, Africa; Rome, Italy; and Northern Ireland. In Malaga, we would go to the beach or visit the clubs. I also tried to make it to church each Sunday I was in town.

**Q. Did you date at all? Was there a difference in male/female interactions?**

No experience in the dating scene. Most interactions I experienced were similar to what you would find in the U.S. People are people no matter what part of the world they are in.

**Q. What was the biggest difference from K-State/biggest adjustment you had to make?**

Manhattan is rural. Malaga is urban. It was a little difficult for me to make the adjustment because of my personal preference of smaller communities. The pace of life was also much slower. I had more free time to think and talk to people, more than when I'm in the States. I didn't always make the best use of my free time because I'm used to having a busy schedule.

**Q. What was your favorite thing about the culture?**

I love the family-oriented nature of Hispanic culture. In the U.S. we, as a nation, are not as focused on family — we are not as close to our relatives. My host parents' grown sons would stop by at least every other week to visit their parents.

I also appreciated the acceptance in Spanish culture. They are open to new ideas and learning new things about different cultures. Many components of Spanish culture came from other cultures. The Arabs had a great impact on Spanish culture. Spanish culture is so rich and complex.

**Q. How popular were tobacco and other drugs?**

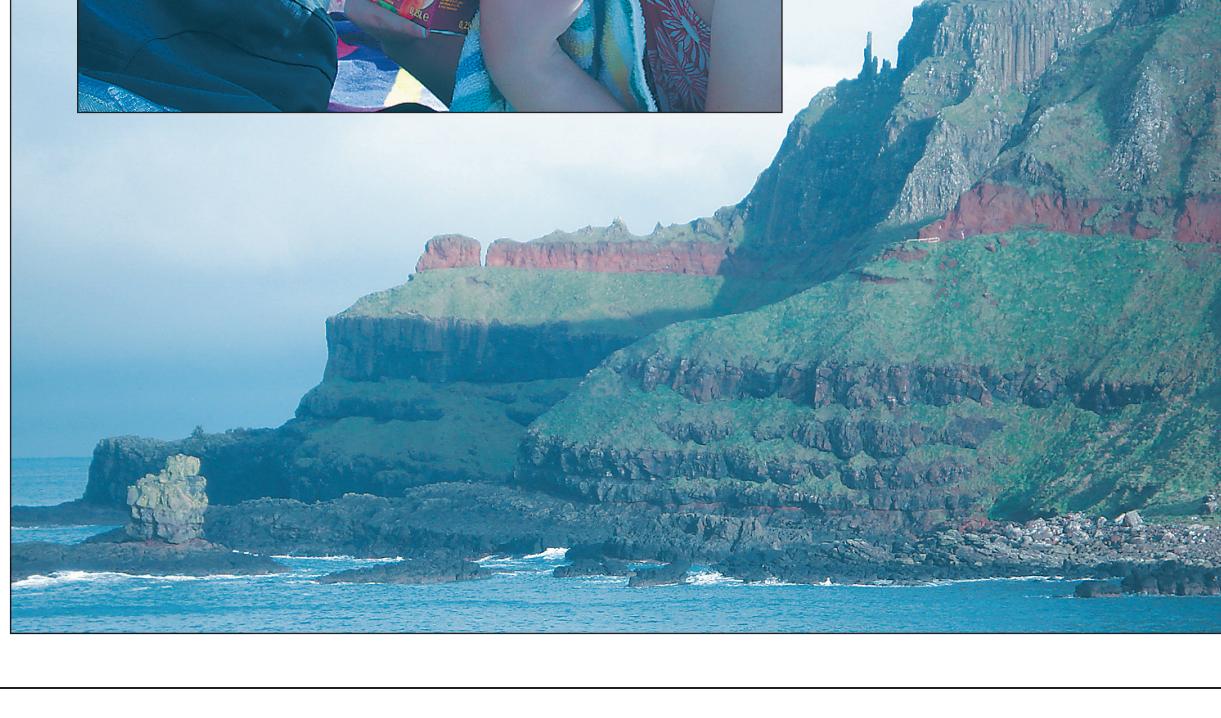
Smoking was common. Both of my host parents smoked as well as many of

my fellow students from other European countries. Hookah was also popular. You could find quite a few hookah bars, though I'm not sure there was one in Malaga.

**Q. What did you miss most about the United States/K-State? What do you miss most about Spain now?**

When I got home the thing I wanted most was BBQ, because I hadn't had any while I was in Spain. I also missed Chipotle and Mexican food in general. I kind of missed knowing where to find things. And of course, I missed my family and friends. Last but not least, I missed the feel of K-State.

Now that I'm back in the U.S., I miss my host family and the food in Spain. I haven't had paella since I returned to the States. Also, the seafood is much better there, which is to be expected — this is Kansas after all. Finally, I miss being able to travel every weekend and see something new.



## Flying can be cheap, time-efficient travel method



**Using flexible dates and destinations can lead to low-cost vacations**

**Elena Buckner**  
edge editor

For lifelong Kansans, road trips often seem to be the only option for cheap weekend getaway.

However, airplanes can offer a quicker option to get to a destination at a cheap price.

When searching for a flight, one way to save money on airfare is to browse different websites and check for low fares. Choosing "flexible" dates that are a month or more in advance often helps you find the cheapest fares available, as does being flexible with destinations.

Sites like expedia.com, hotwire.com and other "low fare" sites can be good tools because they compare the rate of different airlines and offer options that can help balance price and annoyance — a flight to New York City might cost only \$75 during a special on a website, but it might involve layovers in Chicago and Atlanta before arriving at the final destination. Websites that compare rates can help users avoid such dilemmas because they usually state the length of any layovers involved in the flight.

Another option is to go directly to an airline's website and purchase tickets through the airline itself. It is important to check and compare prices when doing so, but if the price is comparable, it is worth taking the time to compare added fees and see if using a middle man, like expedia.com, is truly cost-effective. When buying through an airline, try to stick with one or two main airlines and sign up for their mileage reward plans.

These plans allow travelers to accumulate points over time, then purchase items ranging from magazine subscriptions to more flights with their points. When using mileage programs, keep in mind that points rarely transfer from one airline to another, so taking many low-mileage trips on several different airlines makes it difficult to accumulate enough points to buy anything.

Manhattan Regional Airport offers a tool on its website for potential flyers to look at what destinations are available from MHK and how much the fares cost. It also has links to purchase flights directly or to compare the prices to other available prices online.

In searching MHK's web site ([ci.manhattan.ks.us](http://ci.manhattan.ks.us)) — as well as expedia.com and farecompare.com — there were over 20 destinations with fares lower than \$250 roundtrip for various lengths of time.

If, when wandering the Internet, a low fare pops up in a town with a relative or even just a cool tourist attraction, give flying a thought and squeeze in a mini-vacation where you can sleep through the travel time instead of driving.

**Elena Buckner is a junior in secondary education. Please send comments to [edge@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@spub.ksu.edu).**

## No guide book needed to travel in cities



**Elena Buckner**  
Striking up a conversation with someone new can provide new experiences

The options are limitless when trying to decide what to do in a new city, but sometimes the sheer variety can be overwhelming. The question then becomes: What is the best way to get feel for the personality of a place without frantically hitting every suggested stop in a guide book?

One thing that can keep travelers from over-stressing themselves and allow ample time for meeting locals is to avoid planning each moment of the day. Choose one or two things to do throughout the day and have a list of alternatives if nothing fun pops up, but leave time open to stop at a small store or spend an hour or two talking to the friendly person sitting at the next table at a coffee shop.

Spur-of-the-moment conversations can be invaluable in getting to know the heart and soul of a destination; people will know of spots that are community favorites and important issues happening around town, and are often eager to share their home with an interested visitor. Showing genuine curiosity about the city and avoiding negative comments about the city as a whole ("We went to a place for dinner last night and my steak was completely raw" is different from "I don't think anyone knows how to cook in this town; last night I ordered a steak and it was positively disgusting") can encourage residents to open up about the place they live and give them an incentive

to point travelers to the best their town has to offer.

Besides talking to residents, a way to discover a destination that requires no money and no social interaction skills is walking. Put on a good pair of shoes and get a little lost in the place, or, if spending a few dollars is worth saving some energy, take a bus or taxi to a different part of town and get dropped off somewhere that looks interesting. Choose a direction and start wandering, stopping when something seems interesting and continuing when the mood strikes. When finished, meander back to another bus stop or main street where cabs are available. With this approach, it is possible to discover interesting places that are worth either stopping by for a few moments or spending an entire morning or afternoon.

A third method that is often underestimated is a good chat with the concierge. Even at hotels without concierge services, people working at the front desk are paid to be friendly and helpful and are generally willing to give helpful advice. One tip is not to bother them during a particularly busy time — like when several parties are trying to check in or out at the same time. If the lobby is relatively empty, however, walking up to the desk and asking a question in a friendly manner will often lead to useful results. A person working at the front desk might not have the same body of knowledge a concierge does, but they can at least offer the name of a place they like to hang out or relax when stressed.

Whatever the destination, guide books can only take a tourist so far. To receive a more unique experience, step outside the box and talk to the people who know the place best. They are sure to provide at least one interesting pit stop.

**Elena Buckner is a junior in secondary education. Please send comments to [edge@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@spub.ksu.edu).**

## SKI | Ramp intimidating even to seasoned athletes

### Continued from page 5

he began jumping. The phrase means to bend your knees before the jump, look at the trees while in the air, and hold your position throughout the jump.

Newth described his first jump.

"They towed me towards the ramp," he said. "I thought 'Holy crap, am I really doing this?'" That moment is all part of the excitement, he said.

Before joining the team, Huppert had skied with family and friends, but was more into wakeboarding than water skiing. When he came to K-State, he knew some members of the team and they taught him how to compete.

Recalling his first jump, Hup-

pert said that it was an exciting experience, even though he hit the water and didn't complete the jump. In fact, he said he has still not managed to complete a full jump. That is natural for athletes new to the sport of water skiing.

Newth said most students on the team have to prove themselves in other areas of water skiing before they can begin using the ramp.

Ramps at tournaments are 20 feet long with a 5 1/2-foot drop off at the top, Newth said. The ramps measures 30 feet wide.

"It's a huge structure," Newth said. "It's a lot of fun, but can be intimidating."

This weekend, the team will compete in its first tournament near Springfield, Mo.

## VOLLEYBALL | Players solid on both sides of net

### Continued from page 5

net. In the back row, sophomore Stephanie Klefot, one of the best in the tournament, will be the defensive anchor.

Compare all these players to K-State's senior libero Lauren Mathewson with 4.57 digs per game, senior outside hitter Julianne Chisholm with 3.43 attacks per game, and sophomore middle blocker Alex Muff with

1.39 blocks per game, and the tournament seems pretty evenly matched.

Even though her opponents will be bringing strong competition, Fritz said the numbers do not sit in her mind.

"Maybe it should, but it doesn't. We're going to prepare to the very best of our ability, and we're going to try to put the very best effort forth," Fritz said. "And then we'll see what happens."

## PINK | New chapter to get head count next Thursday

### Continued from page 1

with the announcement of new members for the K-State chapter on Bid Day next Thursday.

"Bid Day is when we will celebrate who will be creating this new chapter for Zeta Tau Alpha at Kansas State," Binford said.

Binford said she currently has no estimate of how many students will be in the new chapter.

She said the numbers will reflect the interest level on campus and hopes to see them close to other sorority chapters.

Both Lopez and Binford said they have enjoyed their time here.

"The greek community here has just been phenomenal, just outrageously welcoming throughout the past couple weeks and leading up to our bid day," Lopez said.

## IFC | Campus leaders optimistic after talk

### Continued from page 1

porting to the police station when there is going to be an event at a fraternity house. Several presidents said they were on board for having registered parties, but were concerned with bearing the punishment for noise and underage drinking problems.

Fraternity presidents and officers said they would be willing to work toward some sort of compromise. One idea involves officers reporting problems to the Social Responsibility Council for the fraternities, who would hold an entire chapter responsible for the consequences instead of putting the president at fault.

"I think the right steps are being put into place so that fraternities, sororities and all college students can work with the police department with reasonable parties," said Andrew Huschka, senior in industrial engineering and president of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Other presidents were also happy to have an open discussion with the RCPD.

"I think we're starting to get on the same page," said Russell Propst, senior in constructive science and IFC president. "I think the RCPD is looking to work along with IFC and the fraternities, and the sororities for that fact, on campus, and there's not so much an awkward disconnect with the two groups."

Propst said he thought part of the problem from the beginning was the lack of communication with the RCPD.

"The fraternities thought that they were being attacked, and we looked at the stats, and that's not necessarily the case by any means," he said.

Also present at the meeting was Pat Bosco, vice president for student life. While addressing the problem at hand, Bosco said he felt that some of the frustration was not with the parties being broken up, but the current drinking-age laws.

He encouraged fraternity members to take their concerns up with law enforcement.

"I've been an advocate for examining our present age

requirements for quite some time," he said. "However, it doesn't excuse our present state of enforcing the present law and exercising leadership at all the functions."

Bosco said he is happy to see steps being taken to mend the tensions between fraternities and the RCPD.

"I'm not sure this happens on very many campuses, where our local law enforcement officers are willing to come to the campus and talk openly to our student leadership," he said. "I'm cautiously optimistic that we have improved communication among our chapter presidents and law enforcement; that's a tribute to all of those involved, and we'll see what happens."

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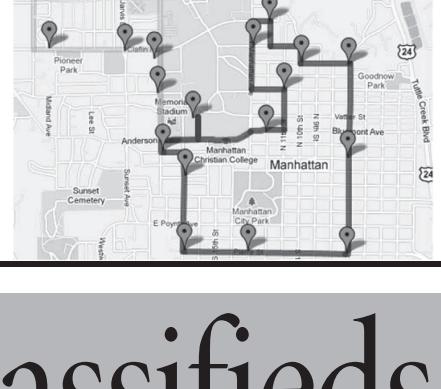
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